Crowd Savors 5th annual JFS Senior Seder

I

t may have been a chilly March day out-
side in Nashville, but inside the Gordon
JCC the JFS Senior Seder was a warm and
festive event for those who attended on
March 21, 2013.

The Senior Seder is a highly anticipated
event each spring. Dedicated volunteers set
tables, poured wine, served the delicious
Goldie Shepard catered lunch, and worked
to ensure that everyone who attended had a
great time. It truly was a community-wide
event as the religious schools participated
by donating handmade placemats and
chocolate covered matzah for everyone to
enjoy. Akiva students created Passover
greeting cards to decorate the tables and
also sang songs at the beginning of the
Seder to welcome everyone who attended.

This was the fifth year that JFS has pro-
vided the Senior Seder. For many of those
who attend, this is the only Seder they are
able to attend and they are especially grate-
ful that it takes place during the daytime.
Bonnie Fertig, who has driven from Hen-
dersonville with her mother each year for
the Seder, summed it up this way: “When
my mother moved from a closely knit syna-
gogue family in Miami to Hendersonville,
she felt as if she had lost a large portion of
her Jewish identity. The JFS Senior Seder
gives her back an important piece of who
she is…and I simply love listening to her
speak the Hebrew prayers and seeing the
smiles caused by wonderful memories.”

Each year Nashville rabbis take turns
leading the Seder. Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel
of Chabad of Nashville engaged the crowd
this year with an interactive Seder that in-
cluded some familiar tunes in Yiddish that
were especially meaningful to those who
attended. Anna Sir, of JFS, said of the
Seder, “It’s important to our community
that each rabbi has his/her own opportu-
nity to lead the Senior Seder. Each rabbi
has made the Seder experience unique and
meaningful. I love that no two years are ex-
actly the same.”

The JFS Senior Seder is held each year
in honor of the late Hannah Kayser
Palmer, who attended the first Senior
Seder with her daughter Lynn Barton.
Hannah’s family wanted to guarantee that
each year JFS has sufficient funds to have a
Seder so they provided resources to ensure
the continuity of the program. JFS is com-
mited to ensuring that there is a Senior
Seder each year and is grateful for the sup-
port of the community.

Mark your calendars for the 2014 Sen-
or Seder, which will be held on Thursday,
April 10, 2014. It will be led by Rabbi Flip
Rice of Congregation Micah, who actually
led the first Senior Seder in 2009.
Dear Friends,

Over the last five years, I have had the opportunity to gain an insight into the role of Jewish Family Service in our community. The more thorough my understanding of the agency’s work, the stronger my commitment becomes. JFS has evolved far from its beginnings of the Benevolent Society. Today, the professional staff is not only available to those in need for personal issues, but they also develop programming on a broad range of issues which impact today’s society.

This fall, I had the opportunity to participate in three events sponsored by Jewish Family Service. Each of these programs left me knowing that the agency is as relevant today as the Benevolent Society was at its inception. At a fundraiser in honor of JFS’ adoption program, I saw the beautiful families that our professionals helped to create through home studies and post-placements. At The Golden Lunch Bunch program for seniors, I experienced the joy of watching those who have given so much to our community have the opportunity to continue to celebrate life with their friends, our volunteers and our staff. And most recently, after attending a seminar for our teenage Jewish youth on Drunk and Distracted Driving, I left with an overwhelming feeling of the power our agency has to prevent tragedy through information and education.

Now that I have had the opportunity to share my feelings with you, I ask you to take the time to read through Jewish Family Service’s informative newsletter. You will gain an insight into why your partnership is so important to us as we continue to serve our Nashville Jewish community.

Thank you!

Sandra Hecklin
Jewish Family Service President
JFS invested in the award winning 5 year curriculum, Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Girl Thing!, which draws on Jewish teachings to help girls in grades 6-12 navigate the complexities of adolescent life. The program empowers girls to think for themselves, stay healthy, enhance self esteem and make connections to Judaism and their peers, while having a good time.

JFS partnered with The Jason Foundation, a nationally recognized educator on suicide prevention, to conduct Suicide Prevention Workshops. The program taught teens how to recognize warning signs, how to help friends who are depressed or considering suicide and provided them with helpful resources. 130 teens and 40 parents were educated through these very important workshops. JFS collaborated with all 5 synagogue religious schools.

In collaboration with all area synagogues, JFS brought to the community Alive Hospice’s Gift Initiative a panel discussion with the goal of getting people of all ages talking about end-of-life care and the value of advance planning. Over 170 people attended this program.

Highlights of 2012-13: A year of new programs and family life education:

All this in addition to JFS’ core services and programs (listed below indicating the number of people served through each):

(statistics are Sept. 2012-Aug. 2013)

Adoption 90 people served
Counseling 85 people served
Emergency Financial Assistance 34 people served
Family Life Education 420 people served
Gesher Financial Assistance 15 people served
Golden Lunch Bunch 60 seniors served
Hanukkah Gift Program 52 individuals served
Healthy Skills for Healthy Kids 80 children served
Helping Hands Volunteer initiative 45 seniors served
Helping Hands Music Program 9 people served
Information and Referral 273 people served
Jewish Job Network 87 job seekers served
Kosher Food Boxes 38 individuals served
Low-Vision Program 38 people served
Senior Seder 43 seniors served
School Supplies 38 children served
The spring was a busy time for JFS as the agency recognized the many volunteers who help throughout the year during special events. The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Chesed Dinner, and Annual Meeting each provided JFS an opportunity to highlight individuals who are exceptional to the staff and board of JFS. Without these many individuals, JFS would simply be unable to provide the many programs and services needed by our community.

On March 3, a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch was held to honor and recognize the 125 individuals who have volunteered with JFS in the last 2 years. In the last year alone, JFS has served more than 1700 individuals through 17 different programs and services. These are impressive numbers that are only possible due to the dedicated group of volunteers who give so freely of their time and their talents to JFS.

During the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Elaine Parker was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award. Elaine has a long history with JFS going back to the 1980’s when she started classes for Jewish Russian families who immigrated to Nashville. She taught individuals practical skills including how to interview, write resumes, and apply for jobs. In the last year Elaine has gone above and beyond the call of duty by approaching JFS with the idea of creating a Low Vision Aid Closet for Jewish seniors. The goal of the program is to provide low vision aids to seniors so they can maintain their independence. This successful program is a partnership between JFS and B’nai B’rith Maimonides Lodge #46, and without Elaine’s initiative and dedication the program would not exist.

In May, JFS honored Toni Heller and Steve Lapidus at the annual JFS Chesed Dinner. As JFS Executive Director Pam Kelner said, “Both Toni and Steve are roll up your sleeves and get the job done leaders who have really set the tone for the JFS board.” As a past President, Toni has been a strong lay leader of JFS during some very turbulent times. She was President at the height of the economic downturn which affected both the increased need for JFS’ services as well as donations coming into JFS. JFS responded with additional services rather than cutting back. This was in great part due to the determination of Toni to weather the storm.

Steve Lapidus is viewed by the JFS staff as one of the agency’s greatest advocates. He is a discerning leader who questions, examines, and then fully supports the agency. He has served in various capacities over the past 8 years including Secretary and Executive Committee member at large. In addition, he has co-chaired the Annual Campaign as well as serving on the Nominating and Marketing committees. The time and dedication that Toni and Steve have given to JFS has undoubtedly made the agency a stronger organization.
JFS held its Annual Meeting in June. This event allowed the JFS board to recognize two more deserving individuals with the Ruach (spirit) and Chaver (friend) Awards. Janet Parr, Office Manager at JFS, was recognized with the Ruach Award for her energy and initiative with starting the Kroger Bucks program at JFS. This fundraiser has enabled many people to participate in raising funds for JFS. To date, JFS has received over $2500 in donation money from Kroger. Janet’s attention to detail and ability to manage the daily operations of a busy agency are to be commended and in presenting Janet with the award, Board Member Lynn Barton stressed how much Janet’s role at JFS is appreciated.

Toni Jacobsen of JFS presented Isaac Staton with the Chaver Award. As the owner of the vegetable stand on Highway 70, Isaac works with JFS so that Kosher Food Box recipients can purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to supplement their box. The recipients have appreciated being able to choose their own produce based on the needs of their families. Isaac’s willingness to partner with JFS on this program has ensured that it runs smoothly. As Toni said at the Annual Meeting, “Isaac makes sure each recipient gets the full benefit of their $5 voucher, even if it means adding a little more.” JFS would not have been able to expand the Kosher Food Box program if it weren’t for Isaac Staton.

The importance of volunteers cannot be stressed enough. JFS is grateful to each and every person who has given of their time and resources. JFS celebrated its 160th birthday this year and the role of volunteers within the agency is as vital now as it was 160 years ago. As we move forward as an agency, we recognize and value the partnerships we have with our volunteers.

Elaine Parker – Volunteer of the Year

Lynn Barton presents Janet Parr with the Ruach Award

Toni Jacobsen presents Isaac Staton with the Chaver Award

JFS Launches New Website

When you have a free minute, please take a moment and peruse Jewish Family Service’s newly revamped website www.jfsnashville.org. You will be amazed at the depth and breadth of programs and services offered.

The website is set-up so that at first glance you can easily see the 6 areas of service that the agency offers: Adoption, Counseling, Services for Seniors, Family Life and Community Enrichment, Financial Assistance and Information and Referral. If you want to find out more about what is offered in one area, just click to explore further. For example, if you click on Services for Seniors you will discover the 9 different programs and services offered for the senior population.

In addition to showing the comprehensiveness of the agency’s services, you can find out more about the agency’s 160 year history, mission, leadership, financial statements, and ways to support the agency. We hope that you enjoy learning more about your Jewish Family Service ~ Supporting Our Community, One Child, One Adult, One Family at a Time.
Jewish Family Service is grateful to the families and individuals who participate in our ongoing Tribute program. It is a wonderful way to honor special people in your life and, at the same time, help fund the vital programs of JFS.

IN HONOR

Erin Coleman
For your great job you did as Co-Chair of the 2013 Chesed Dinner!
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Jan Liff

Bob Eisenstein
In honor of your receiving the “2013 Jewish Federation President’s Award”
Felicia & Ken Anchor
Cindee & Michael Gold
Janice Krohn
Carolyn & Barrett Rosen

Dr. Steve Eskind
In honor of your induction into the Nashville Public School Foundation Hall of Fame
Bonnie & Doug Small

Rita Feldman’s Granddaughter
Inge Loewenstein

Sandra Hecklin
In honor of your becoming the New JFS President!
Gretchen & Randy Goldstein
Leslye & Steve Lapidus
Patty & Jimmy Marks
Jan & Larry Pass
Carolyn & Barrett Rosen

Sandra & Steve Hecklin
Thank you for a lovely Rosh Hashanah!!
Carol & Roy Smith

Toni Heller
In honor of your receiving the “2013 Chesed Award”
Lynn & David Barton
Barbara & Eric Chazen

Esther & Roger Cohn
Louise & Jim Frazer
Barbara & Frank Ghetner
Lynn & Scott Ghetner
Lee & Michael Gryll
Salli & Bernie Harris
Sandra & Steve Hecklin
Rabbi Kenneth Kanter
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Leslye & Steve Lapidus
A-J Levine & Jay Geller
Jan Liff
Dede & Ted Lipman
Jane & Larry Lubow
Daniella Pressner
& Rabbi Saul Strosberg
Diane & Jack Sasson
Joan B. Shayne
Goldie & Mark Shepard
Bonnie & Doug Small
Lisa & Stephen Small
Gloria & Paul Sternberg
Elise & Jim Straus
Beth Tannenbaum & Carl Dreifuss
Sylvia & Alan Winner

Toni Jacobson
Lynn Kanter
Eva & Eric Rosenfeld

Pam Kelner
Michael Attias
Roslyn Landa

Stephen Lapidus
In honor of your receiving the “2013 Chesed Award”
Sally & Bruce Alterman
Lynn & David Barton
Lisa & Tommy Bernard
Charlotte Corenblum
Shary & Rodney Essig
Robert Farber
Bobbi & Barry Freeman
Nancy & Steve Friedberg
Lynn & Scott Ghetner
Lisa & Brad Greenbaum
Lee & Michael Gryll
Madelon & Chuck Gryll
Miriam & Ari Halachmi
Sandra & Steve Hecklin
Toni & Dick Heller
Lindsey & Tom Jacobs
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Katz
Phylis Katzoff
Ann & Irv Kauvar
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Caryn & Steven Klein
Elaine & Gus Kuhn
A-J Levine & Jay Geller
Barbara & Irving Levy
Jan Liff
Dede & Ted Lipman
Jane & Larry Lubow
Keith Mirman
Elaine & Michael Neumann
Yifat Oren
Bill Parsons
Ruth & Peter Pressman
Daniella Pressner
& Rabbi Saul Strosberg
Joyce & Joe Rosenfield
Johanna & Richard Rothberg
Brenda & Rabbi Bill Rothschild
Goldie & Mark Shepard
Michael R. Simon
Royce & Michael Simon
Bonnie & Doug Small
Gloria & Paul Sternberg
Cristin & Scott Viebranz
Harvey P. Wilker
Irene & Alex Wolchansky
Joseph Zendlovitz

Diana & Shelly Lutz
Ellen Gerecht

Margot & Martin Nash
Laura Thompson & Yuri Livshitz

Julie & Bob Neaderthal
In honor of your new home!
Felicia & Ken Anchor

Elaine Parker
Congratulations on receiving the JFS Volunteer of the Year Award!
Jan Liff

Janet Parr
In honor of your receiving the “2013 JFS Ruach Award”
Cindee & Michael Gold

Daniella Pressner
In appreciation of your efforts on the 2013 Chesed Dinner!
Jan Liff

Laura & Neal Reizer
Laura Thompson & Yuri Livshitz

Dr. Trent & Ellie Rosenbloom
Ellen & Phil Rosenbloom

Trent Rosenbloom, M. D.
In honor of your serving as mohel!
Elizabeth & Uzi Bahar
Rochel & Ur Goodrich
Michelle & Jon Levin

Stan Schklar
Michael McDaniel

Suzanne & Jimmy Schulman
Thank you for a lovely Rosh Hashanah!
Carol & Roy Smith

Teri Sogol
Congratulations on 30 Years at JFS!
Lynn & David Barton
Jan Liff

Karen Weil
For your great job you did as Co-Chair of the 2013 Chesed Dinner!
Cindee & Michael Gold
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Jan Liff

NEW BABY

Erin & Micah Coleman
Congratulations on the birth of your precious baby girl, Yael Coleman!
Ruth Guadalupe-Barsallo

Lisa & Mike Shmerling
In honor of the birth of your new grandchild!
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Dr. & Mrs. Bart Campbell
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mrs. Betty Cohen
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mr. & Mrs. Robert V. Dale
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Toni & Dick Heller
Ginny & John Aita

Mrs. John Johnson
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mrs. Joe Knight
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mrs. Betty Lentz
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mrs. Sandy Leshman
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mr. & Mrs. Walter McCullough
Sally & Larry Wolfe
Ms. May Sebel & Mr. Bill Mexic
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mr. & Mrs. Alden H. Smith
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Sternheimer
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Dr. & Mrs. Paul R. Stumb
Sally & Larry Wolfe

JOYFUL PASSOVER!

Lynn & David Barton
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Mimi & Frank Friedman
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Linda & Joel Gluck
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Gretchen & Randy Goldstein
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Leslye & Steve Lapidus
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Carolyn & Buddy Rosen
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Suzanne & Jimmy Schulman
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Sylvia Shepard
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Lisa & Michael Shmerling
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Beverly & Jimmy Small
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Karen & Fred Yazdian
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

Robyn & Sam Yazdian
Sandra & Steve Hecklin

BAR MITZVAH

Steve Edelstein
Felicia & Ken Anchor

David Schreiber
Ruth & Manuel Guadalupe-Barsallo
Jocelyn & Jonathan Kasper

COLLEGE GRADUATION

Lori Weil
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

ENGAGEMENT & WEDDING

Dr. & Mrs. Scott Aita
In honor of your marriage!
Toni & Dick Heller

Jill & Dan Eisenstein
In honor of the marriage of
Rachel Eisenstein
Carolyln & Barrett Rosen

Barry Wilker & David Ellis
In honor of your marriage!
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

BIRTHDAY

Ruth Alexander
Diane & Sy Trachtman

Dee Doochin
Toni & Dick Heller

Eric Chazen
Nan Speller

BUD ZANDER
Nan Speller

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Sandy Averbuch
Toni & Dick Heller
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Lynn Barton
Heidi & Ron Addlestone
Toni & Dick Heller
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Leslye & Steve Lapidus
Daniella Pressner
& Rabbi Saul Strosberg

Victor Caplan
Cathy & Howard Rosenblum

Eric Chazen
Toni & Dick Heller
Nan Speller
Alice Zimmerman

IN MEMORY (Z " L)*

Kimberly Chestnut
Cindee & Michael Gold

Harold M. Cohen
A Friend
Arlene & Jerry Averbuch
Lynn & Scott Ghertrner
Toni & Dick Heller
Pam & Shaul Kelner

IN APPRECIATION

Cantor Tracy Fishbein
Cindee & Michael Gold

Dr. Steve & Sandra Hecklin
Jan Liff

Jan Liff
Margot & Martin Nash

Carrie Mills
Cindee & Michael Gold

Trent Rosenbloom
Ashley, Adam & Chase Small

IN MEMORY (Z " L)*

Kimberly Chestnut
Cindee & Michael Gold

Harold M. Cohen
A Friend
Arlene & Jerry Averbuch
Lynn & Scott Ghertrner
Toni & Dick Heller
Pam & Shaul Kelner
TRIBUTES

supporting our community one child, one adult, one family at a time

Nan Speller
Jay Cohen
Cindee & Michael Gold

Murray Cohen
Nan Speller

Dr. Stanley Dayne
Felicia & Ken Anchor
Nan Speller

Rita Engels
Beloved Sister & Auntie
Adam Landa

Henry Feingold
Bonnie & Doug Small

Lori Ann Fishel
Felicia & Ken Anchor
Lynn & David Barton
Dawn & Scott Becker
Harris A. Gilbert
Nan Speller

Harry Fox
Barbara Nogg

Sadie Gerson
Cindee & Michael Gold

Joy Goldstein
Toni & Dick Heller
Pam & Shaul Kelner

Selma Greengard
Judy Saks

Jacqueline Greenstein
Cindee & Michael Gold

Dorothy Grossman
Leslye & Steven Lapidus

Basil Hirschowitz
Toni & Dick Heller
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Nan Speller

Sylvia Hyman
Heidi & Ron Addlestone

Dr. Eugene Jacoby
Cindee & Michael Gold

Libby Kauvar
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Carrol Duane Kilgore
Jan Liff

Morris Kraft
Cindee & Michael Gold
Nan Speller

Leonard Luck
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Louis Miller
Felicia & Ken Anchor

Jean Hess Morris
Jan Liff

Sam Newman
Cindee & Michael Gold

Ernest Oppenheim
Cindee & Michael Gold

Don Pelz
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Hedy Pollack
Felicia & Ken Anchor
Nan Speller
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Marvin Posner
Jan Liff

Lawrence Pressner
Toni & Dick Heller
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Jan Liff
Nan Speller

Lena Levy Pritikin
Bernice Esstman
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Maurice Raphael
Felicia & Ken Anchor

Dr. Susan Rudolph
Cindee & Michael Gold

Sandee Schreiber
Pam & Shaul Kelner
Meryl & Keith Kraft

Bobby Shepard
Heidi & Ron Addlestone
Lynn & David Barton
Family Staffing Solutions, Inc.
Cindee & Michael Gold
Toni & Dick Heller
Leslye & Steven Lapidus
Jan Liff
Janet & Rami Weismark

Dorothy Grossman
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Carrol Duane Kilgore
Jan Liff

Morris Kraft
Cindee & Michael Gold
Nan Speller

Cindee & Michael Gold
Mary L. Jones
Dianne & Craig Sussman
Janet & Rami Weismark

Dr. Samuel J. Simon
Felicia & Ken Anchor
Cindee & Michael Gold

Teri R. Simon
Toni & Dick Heller
Pam & Shaul Kelner

Molly Slabosky
Lynn & David Barton
Jan & Steve Riven

Eleanor Bloch Small
Heidi & Ron Addlestone
Lynn & David Barton
Cindee & Michael Gold
Jan Liff
Carol & Roy Smith
Nan Speller

Richard Small
Lynn & David Barton
Betty S. Cohen
Cindee & Michael Gold
Toni & Dick Heller
Leslye & Steve Lapidus
Marlene & Robert Moses
Carolyn & Barrett Rosen
Nan Speller
Sylvia Weinberger
Sally & Larry Wolfe

Peggy D. Smirnow
Lynn & David Barton
Mary Sue Wright
Leslye & Steve Lapidus

* (Z " L) - Of Blessed Memory

Tribute donations received after November 17, 2013 will be included on the next JFS Newsletter.
Grant makes a tremendous impact on JFS programming

Marvin Rosenblum M.D., wanted to honor the memory of his beloved parents, Selma and Ernest Rosenblum. He did this in a very significant way, prior to his death, with the establishment of the Selma and Ernest Rosenblum Foundation. The Board of Trustees is made up of five of Marvin’s nieces and nephews and Selma and Ernest’s grandchildren. Their mission is to fund non-profit organizations that day in and day out fulfill the values that their grandparents, and in turn, family hold dear. It is not a requirement of the foundation that the non-profit be based in Nashville, but the board looked to non-profits in the Nashville area since that is where their uncle and grandparents built their lives, family, and community.

Selma and Ernest Rosenblum were born in Chausy, Russia, in the late 1800s, and immigrated to Nashville, Tennessee, in the early 1900s. They had eight children together. The values of caring for those in need, the elderly, and music were some of the strongest in the family. Ernest and Selma had a general store in East Nashville and were very active in the Jewish community—they belonged to all three synagogues. Ernest died from cancer in his forties and Selma was left to raise eight children and run the store on her own. One of the eight children is alive and resides in Nashville—Eva Rosenblum Mendelsohn.

In early 2011, Pam Kelner, director of Jewish Family Service met with two of the trustees to discuss the goals of the foundation and the programs and services of Jewish Family Service. Kelner says of the meeting,” It was quickly discovered that there was a perfect synergy between JFS and the foundation. The values that JFS is founded upon are values that were lived out by Selma and Ernest, Marvin and the whole family”. In the words of Foundation President Ellen Rosenblum Rubesin,”Everything about this organization was impressive to our trustees—its mission, its efficiency, and the impact that it has on the people of Nashville—it seemed like the perfect fit.”

Jewish Family Service has been awarded a $30,000 unrestricted grant in the first year and a $35,000 in year two. Daniella Pressner, immediate Past-President of Jewish Family Service says “A grant of this size makes a tremendous impact on the work of JFS in our ability to serve the community. We are so grateful that the Foundation recognized JFS as an agency they wanted to partner with and invest in.”

As a result of the grant, the agency has been able to invest in two programs to serve the tween and teen communities. Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Girl Thing! which is a program that draws on Jewish teachings to help girls in grades 6-12 of all affiliations navigate the complexities of adolescent life. The goals are to empower girls to think for themselves, stay healthy, enhance self esteem and to make connections to Judaism and to their peers, all while having a good time in a safe space. Now in year two, there are four thriving RHIGT groups in Nashville! (to see a video about RHIGT, visit https://vimeo.com/65851320)

In addition, this past year JFS launched Shevet Achim (see story on Page 10). •

“The values that JFS is founded upon are values that were lived out by Selma and Ernest, Marvin and the whole family.”
 Teens dig deeper in Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood

Imagine images popping up side by side of sushi and steak; cowboy boots and sneakers; a saxophone and an electric guitar. Then, you are asked the question: Which of these two images is manlier?? At first glance this exercise may seem superficial; with boys excitedly jumping up and screaming out why they think sushi definitely is ‘da bomb versus steak. But then, they calm down and are challenged to think why they answered in the manner that they did. This is just one example of what may take place in a Shevet Achim session.

Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood, is the newest program launched by Jewish Family Service. Shevet Achim is fun program that the boys who participate say is a safe place to talk about the challenges they face in adolescence and in becoming men. Jewish Family Service thanks the Ernest and Selma Rosenblum Foundation for a grant which enabled the agency to invest in the curriculum written by Moving Traditions.

Shevet Achim is proving itself to be a place for guys to build a meaningful community of peers and have a chance to talk about many of the things that are on their minds as teens including competition, stress, power, money, wisdom, intimacy and more. All of this takes place within a Jewish context and in an experiential way. Every session begins with an activity, and then there’s food, fun, games, debate and discussion.

The group is being led by Ur Barzel who is an educator by trade and has spent many years supporting summer camps, working with youth movements, and teaching in classroom settings for middle and high school students. Ur also teaches at the West End Synagogue on Sundays. Ur says of the program “Shevet Achim is a tremendous addition to our community; filling an important niche at a seminal time in a young man’s life. I feel fortunate to be leading the group through the program.”

The true power of the group is expressed beautifully by a mom of one participant, “this program is actually allowing the boys to think about and talk about issues that they may not have the time to do elsewhere. They are all so busy with school, sports, that who really has the time to think about all the issues that are thrown at them? This program allows them to stop and actually process an issue in depth…it’s just great!”

9th grade boys taking part in Shevet Achim: the Brotherhood

So many ways to help

Restricted or Unrestricted Giving: Every contribution helps make a tangible difference in the lives of the people who need it most. “Unrestricted” donations support the full range of vital programs and services – allowing us to direct funds to where the need is greatest. As a donor, you can also “Restrict” the gifts to specific programs or services that have special meaning to you.

Memorial and Tribute Gifts: When your gift is a tribute for a special occasion, or in honor or memory of someone special, you get the satisfaction of giving a truly meaningful gift and we take care of sending the card. Your gift will be acknowledged in accordance with your instructions, and the gift amount will not be disclosed unless you request it.

Auto Donation Program: JFS partners with Charitable Auto Resources to accept donations of automobiles. The net proceeds of the sale of your auto go to help support our programs and services. To donate your car, please call 877-537-4227 or visit www.charitableautosources.com

Legacy Giving: Including JFS in your estate plans enables you to support those programs that are most important to
Educating leads to Prevention

JFS family life education programs focus on prevention and education. Our goal is to address emerging concerns or needs which impact families and the community through programs directed toward empowering, protecting or informing the population about a particular issue. JFS family life education programs are offered in a variety of formats such as presentations, workshops, and support group. They utilize the expertise of JFS’ licensed clinical social workers as well as that of the local community and beyond. Recent presentations have addressed issues of teen suicide, cyber-bullying, eating disorders, inclusivity of people with disabilities, and end of life matters. Support groups on topics such as caregiving for an elderly parent or spouse, unemployment, or bereavement bring together those facing similar issues to share experiences, advice, learn coping skills and receive information. Our Healthy Skills for Healthy Kids program is offered to the children at Temple Playschool, the children at the GJCC aftercare program, and the staff of GJCC Camp Davis. This program teaches children about body boundaries, safety regarding strangers, positive social skills, conflict resolution, communications skills, how to deal with bullies, and more. Camp counselors learn how to have appropriate boundaries with the children, the red flags of child abuse, sex abuse, and what to do when red flags become apparent.

All too often lately we hear of the tragic loss of a young person caused by drinking or texting while driving. On November 17 JFS is bringing speakers from Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Blake McMeans Foundation to talk to teens about the dangers of drunk and distracted driving. Each has been personally affected and has a powerful story to tell. In feedback provided from teens in the religious schools we learned that they would like programs that help them address the stress in their lives. In March 2014 we will offer a stress management support group for teens in grades 10 through 12. Additionally, in the fall of 2014 we plan to offer a unique program that will help teens deal more effectively with the stressors in their lives. If you would like further information about the groups and programs we are planning for next year or have a suggestion for a family life education program or support group, please contact JFS at (615)356-4234.

Matching Gifts: Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Ask your employer or human resources department if they participate in a matching gift program, helping make your gift to JFS twice as powerful.

Corporate Sponsorship: Receive exposure by sponsoring our annual Chesed Dinner – sponsorship levels vary.

Volunteer: A personal, valuable, and rewarding way to give is that of time.

To find out more about any of these opportunities, please call (615)356-4234 or visit www.jfsnashville.org
Save the date for the Chesed Dinner
Thursday May 1st 2014

Jewish Family Service of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Incorporated provides professional social services from Jewish perspectives which respond to and support individuals and families through life’s transitions.

Jewish Family Service strives to
 Improve social, emotional and economic conditions
   Enhance personal growth
 Increase opportunities for independent, productive and satisfying lives

“One who saves a Single Soul Saves an Entire World”
   - Sanhedrin 37a